

PRESS RELEASE

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OVER \$250,000 IN FEDERAL GRANTS AWARDED TO COMBAT GUN AND GANG CRIME

\$262,205 TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO SEVEN AGENCIES

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced today that the U.S. Department of Justice, as a part of the national Project Safe Neighborhoods Program and the Anti-Gang Initiative, has awarded seven grants to combat gun and gang crime to law enforcement agencies within the Western District.

Three agencies will receive Anti-Gang Initiative grants, to support gang enforcement and prevention efforts. The Madison Police Department will receive \$56,276, the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force will receive \$50,445, and the Fitchburg Police Department will receive \$30,000.

Four agencies will receive Project Safe Neighborhoods grants, to address gun violence and gun crime. The Superior Police Department will receive \$31,470, the Marathon County Sheriff's Department will receive \$31,470, the West Central Drug Enforcement Task Force will receive \$31,470, and the La Crosse Police Department will

receive \$31,074.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) and the Anti-Gang Initiative are nationwide programs to reduce gun and gang crime in America by networking existing local programs that target these crimes and providing those programs with additional tools necessary to be successful. Through partnership with federal, state, and local law enforcement, each United States Attorney is implementing Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Anti-Gang Initiative in a manner designed to target the most significant gun crime problems within each district.

United States Attorney Peterson said, "Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Anti-Gang Initiative are all about teamwork, and this office is proud to be a part of these collaborative teams of local and federal officials. These federal resources will help law enforcement agencies investigate and prosecute violent offenders and gang members who plague our communities."

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